



PHOTOGRAPHY: CAITLYN BELLELL

Kitty Calhoun Grissom climbs Stewart Falls, near Sundance. Little Cottonwood, Santaquin, Provo canyons offer good climbs.



Crampons on her feet help Kitty Calhoun Grissom dig into the frozen falls.

CRYSTAL Climbing

Not many know it, but Utah has some of the best falls in U.S.

By Ruth Ann Mitchell *1 Mar 1996*
Deseret News staff writer

For a few daring souls the brilliance of a crystal city can be found in Little Cottonwood Canyon.

Local ice climbers and their counterparts from across the country enjoy the beauty and challenge of climbing Utah's frozen waterfalls. Yet most Utahns have never experienced the state's great ice climbs.

Utah ranks among the top five states for ice climbing; is home to the sole American manufacturer of ice climbing equipment, Black Diamond Equipment; and boasts

some of the world's best ice climbers.

Some of the best places to climb are in Provo Canyon, Little Cottonwood Canyon and Santaquin Canyon. Utah's ice climbing is as good as any other state, according to Kitty Calhoun Grissom, known in climbing circles as the best woman ice climber in the United States, possibly the world.

"Climbers know about the climbing here," said Grissom, a guide for Exum Mountain Adventures, "But locals don't seem aware of it."

True, many Utahns have never heard of crampons, let alone know how to use them. Crampons are the high-tech metal claws that ice climbers strap to their feet, allowing them to dig into the ice, like a cat

rk and typesetting as a graph-
ic District, loves "rail fanning."

25 years ago triggered West's giant iron horses

photography, which is called
"rail fanning."

There are few photographs of
old trains in their original
settings, so Belmont tries to
create these scenes in
etches with graphite pencils.
He now has 136 illustrations of
trains and train stations. In
1988, he started the series,
which illustrates an era in which
train stations were the social
and economic center of a com-
munity.

"I really should be showing
them, especially during the cen-
tennial year," Belmont said.
"Maybe I will."

Salt Lake City is a great place
for train buffs, he said. Rio
Grande and Union Pacific sta-
tions are wonderful subjects for
sketching.

"My favorites are the small-
town stations, but there aren't
very many anymore. The one in
Brigham City is one of the last
that still stands."

Because the local railroads
represent the crossroads of the
Western United States, hun-
dreds of trains go through here
on the way to Ogden, Oakland,
Denver and Los Angeles.

He is now co-authoring a cof-
fee table book on Utah's rail-
roads. Belmont is contributing
photographs to the project, and
the book should be out by the
end of the year.

The book's two other authors
are **Dave Gaye**, Taylorsville; and
Blair Koistra, a former Ogden
Standard-Examiner photogra-
pher who now is a dispatcher for
Burlington Northern/Santa Fe
railroads in Fort Worth, Texas.

By **Lucinda Dillon**, **Deseret**
News staff writer.

air standards

and particulate standards in 1992.

Utah County exceeded carbon
monoxide and particulate restric-
tions in 1993.

"We didn't violate the health
standard, but we certainly came
close," said Russell Roberts, air
quality director. "We need to do
everything possible to assure that

Grisson.

Most climbers use ropes that are
secured to the ice with ice screws,
bolted into the ice with the climber's
free hand. One Black Diamond
nickel-plated screw can hold up to
2,500 pounds.

Climbers must wear helmets be-
cause sometimes, as they thrust
their picks into the ice, chunks of
ice come tumbling down. Each
winter Chris Harmston, a nuclear
physicist turned ice climber, mod-
els scars and scrapes on his fore-
head from falling ice.

Ice climbing is considered more
dangerous than rock climbing.
First, the ice's strength changes
with temperature. Very, very cold
ice can be brittle, while too-soft ice
is weak. The ideal temperature for
ice climbing is just a few degrees
below freezing.

Utah actually has very forgiving
ice, compared with the brittle ice
of Canada and the northeastern
United States, according to Gris-
som.

Another hazard in ice climbing is
the sharp tools. "A general rule for
ice climbing is: If you fall, you are
going to get hurt," Harmston said.
This is because climbers can get
skewered by their picks.

Still, Harmston, quality assur-
ance manager for Black Diamond
Equipment, 2084 E. 3900 South,
considers ice climbing relatively
safe.

BUS

Continued from B1

people coming in and out for the
buses are disruptive to mall busi-
nesses, sometimes even destruc-
tive.

"We thought this would be a
good compromise," said Kallas.
"Move the stop to a place still
nearby but not right in the mall."

Buses stopped running to the
mall transfer site Feb. 21, said
English.

Buses are stopping at 740 East
1200 South for the time being and
making a short turnaround "loop"
through the far east end of the
mall property with management
blessing.

If negotiations go as planned,
the UTA hopes to get permission
soon to put up "at least temporary
shelters" on the corner of 1200
South and eventually build a more

from that 25.9 rem to 26.
Grisson, who has climbed in
Alaska, Peru, Nepal, Pakistan and
Kyrgyzstan.

Ice climbers experience a world
of ice chandeliers, blooming ice
cauliflowers and enormous ice pil-
lars. And all this ice comes in dif-
ferent shades of white, blue, black
and brown. Blue ice is the best for
climbing.

For Grissom climbing is a men-
tal retreat.

"Whenever I find myself worry-
ing about petty little things, I go
climbing. It helps me put things
back in perspective," she said.

Also, ice climbing builds
courage.

Grisson, who has never liked
public speaking, is often called on
to talk groups of 300 to 500 people
about her climbs. "If I can climb
these big mountains," she tells her-
self, "I can talk to these people."

Despite the rewards of ice climb-
ing, starting the sport can be ex-
pensive. Not only does the new
climber need to purchase the
equipment (one ice screw costs
more than \$40), he or she also
should pay for some professional
instruction. However, after the ini-
tial investment, ice climbers never
have to pay for a lift ticket.

"Ice climbing's more demand-
ing," said Grissom. "It'll never be
as popular with the masses as sport
climbing. But since there's not as
many climbers, it's easier to find
solitude."

elaborate transfer station in the
summer.

"We're trying to work through
everything. We don't know if we'll
ever be back on the mall prop-
erty," said English. "But we'll have
something close by. We're in the
process — in fact, we were sur-
prised because we were already
doing this — of working with the
mall and developing a plan for the
perimeter area."

English said the UTA has federal
funds and a grant to help pay for a
new transfer station. The sudden
notice of eviction from the mall
just caught them off guard.

English said new schedules are
being hastily reprinted and every
bus carries a posted sign about the
change.

However, that doesn't help
people like Gordon.

English said drivers are sup-
posed to be announcing the
changes as well.

He said that additional
lifetime exposure is "less
person would experience
year's residence in the M
West . . . rather than near
level" because cosmic ray
sure is greater at higher
as is exposure from rocks
have less soil covering the
mountain states.

He added that "in some
experiments, the addition
tion from the experiment
equivalent to the extra ra-
experienced by a person
about an hour's flight in a
cial jetliner at cruising al-
where the thinner atmos-
gives less protection from
rays.

In an interview with th
News, Ray said he felt vo-
actually faced more thre-
repeated drawing of blo-
than from radiation. "Th
more threat of bruising o-
tion — although still sma-
drawing blood than they
radiation."

He said tests that used
small amounts of radiatio-
be called "tracer" or "me-
studies by the government

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ICE

11-Mar-1996

Continued from B1

climbs a tree.

With crampons attached to each foot, climbers hold an ice pick in each hand, finding their way up the sheets of ice, formed on 75- to 800-foot cliff walls.

"Ice climbing's just swinging tools and pulling up," said Grissom.

Most climbers use ropes that are secured to the ice with ice screws, bolted into the ice with the climber's free hand. One Black Diamond nickel-plated screw can hold up to 2,500 pounds.

Climbers must wear helmets because sometimes, as they thrust their picks into the ice, chunks of ice come tumbling down. Each winter Chris Harmston, a nuclear physicist turned ice climber, models scars and scrapes on his forehead from falling ice.

Ice climbing is considered more dangerous than rock climbing. First, the ice's strength changes with temperature. Very, very cold ice can be brittle, while too-soft ice is weak. The ideal temperature for ice climbing is just a few degrees below freezing.

Utah actually has very forgiving ice, compared with the brittle ice of Canada and the northeastern United States, according to Grissom.

Another hazard in ice climbing is the sharp tools. "A general rule for ice climbing is: If you fall, you are going to get hurt," Harmston said. This is because climbers can get skewered by their picks.

Still, Harmston, quality assurance manager for Black Diamond Equipment, 2084 E. 3900 South, considers ice climbing relatively safe.

"You can die just as easily and quickly rock climbing as ice climbing. They're both pretty dangerous," he said. "But my belief is they're both safer than riding in a car."

Ice climbing is definitely more thrilling than commuting in heavy traffic.

"For me ice climbing is like being in another world," said Grissom, who has climbed in Alaska, Peru, Nepal, Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Ice climbers experience a world of ice chandeliers, blooming ice cauliflowers and enormous ice pillars. And all this ice comes in different shades of white, blue, black and brown. Blue ice is the best for climbing.

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"Ice climbing's more demanding," said Grissom. "It'll never be as popular with the masses as sport climbing. But since there's not as many climbers, it's easier to find solitude."